

# NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA  
Department of Industrial  
Relations  
News For Immediate Release  
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## **Unemployed workers in 65 counties now may be eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance**

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, October 5, 2004.....Unemployed workers in twelve additional counties declared disaster areas as a direct result of Hurricane Ivan may be eligible for benefits under the Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program, according to Phyllis Kennedy, Alabama Department of Industrial Relations director. The additional affected counties are: Chambers, Colbert, DeKalb, Henry, Houston, Jackson, Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Morgan, Randolph, and Russell. There are now a total of sixty-five Alabama counties that are eligible for Individual Assistance.

“DUA benefits are available to persons who work or live in those counties and became unemployed, or could not engage in their customary self-employment, as a result of Hurricane Ivan,” says Kennedy. “During the 11 work days from September 20 through October 4, about 7,500 DUA-related claims have been taken so far. Those claims are among the 37,000 total unemployment compensation claims, or phone inquiries about claims, taken during the same time period.”

Claims for DUA may be filed by calling the toll-free telephone number, **1-866-234-5382**. Generally, persons who are eligible for regular unemployment benefits are not eligible for DUA, but the claimant may qualify for DUA if regular unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted. Self-employed individuals will be required to provide a copy of their 2003 income tax records when they apply for benefits. **The final date to file a claim in these new additional counties is November 3, 2004.**

The first twelve counties to be declared disaster areas were: Baldwin, Butler, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Escambia, Geneva, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington. **The final date to file in those counties is October 15, 2004.** On September 24, another 41 counties were declared disaster areas: Autauga, Barbour, Bibb, Blount, Bullock, Calhoun, Chilton, Choctaw, Clay, Coosa, Cullman, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lamar, Lawrence, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Marshall, Marion, Montgomery, Perry, Pickens, Pike, Shelby, St. Clair, Sumter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa, Walker, Wilcox, and Winston. **The final date to file a claim in those counties is October 22, 2004.**

DUA services are administered by the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations through its network of Unemployment Compensation Call Centers across the state. Funding is provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.